

Orig to NA R6/2/5

cc-Staff
Craig
Holt

June 17, 1955

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. H. S. Craig
FROM: Roy P. McNair
SUBJECT: Psychological Exploitation of Economic Privation in China

Most reporting channels on conditions in Communist China are now in general agreement that the agricultural situation in China is very serious as a result of continued drought and flood conditions in various parts of the country.

This situation provides our information programs with an excellent opportunity to embarrass the Peiping regime before its own people for the manner in which it has handled the general food situation during periods of continued flood and drought conditions.

For example, our media should exploit the theme that Red China ignores the welfare of its own people when it exports cereals to the Soviet Union while there is starvation and famine at home. Also, by comparison our media should record with hammering repetition the historical role which the United States played in alleviating Chinese suffering during periods of famine. In 1922 U. S. wheat saved the population of three provinces in North China. In 1931 U. S. cereals prevented starvation in four provinces in Central China when these provinces were inundated by floods. In 1946 and 1947 UNRRA aid fed over 30,000,000 people who were facing privation as a result of crop failures.

While the Chinese people are being reminded of this record of goodness of the U. S. as opposed to the evil of the Communists, the wider audience of Japanese, Koreans, Indians and Filipinos should be beamed in hoping that they may pause and give thanks for the American food they have received which is not available in time of famine in a Communist world.

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Mr. Craig
HC
June 14, 1955

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Donald Irwin
THROUGH: H. S. Craig
FROM: Roy P. McNair

The foreign press reaction to the President's "Atoms for Peace" proposal contained in his address at Pennsylvania State College has to this moment been scanty.

Most of the reaction has come from the British press with both conservative and liberal news organs being exceedingly high in their praise of the President's proposal. In Japan, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, has stated that Japan welcomes the President's proposal, as well as the economic aspect of Japan being able to purchase or build a reactor through American assistance.

Normally it takes at least five days for the entire foreign press to react to any specific development in the U. S. of an international nature. Therefore, it is hoped that a more comprehensive summation of foreign press reaction can be achieved on Friday.